

Rockies swept in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Wade Miller has learned how to pitch at hitter friendly Enron Park.

Miller allowed four hits in seven innings to win his fifth straight home decision as the Houston Astros beat the Colorado Rockies 7-2 Wednesday night to sweep the three-game series.

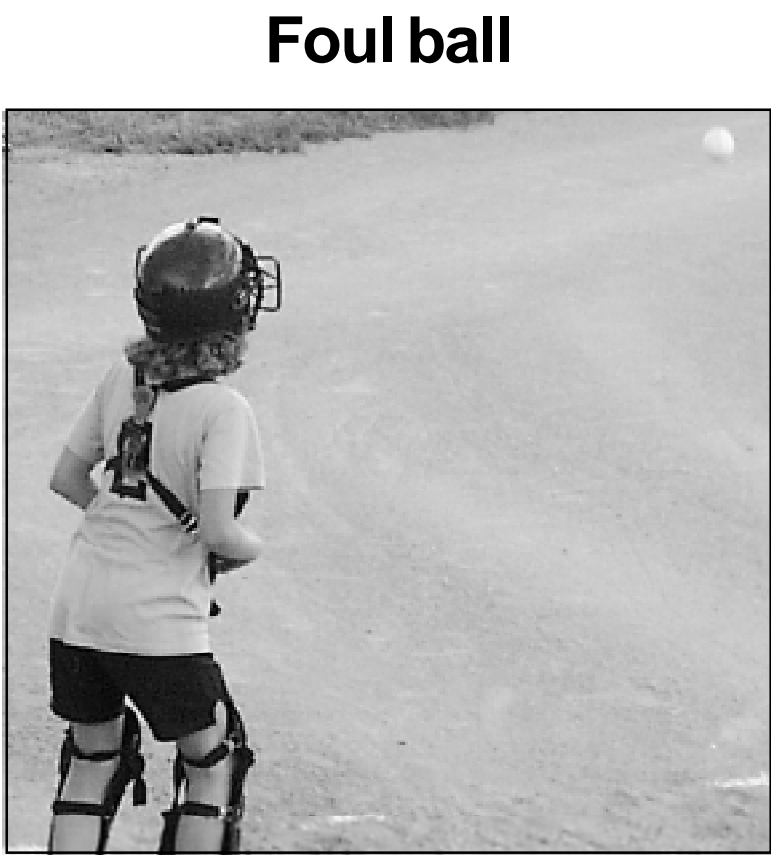
"The way I looked at it was if I was going to be up here for a long time I had better get used to pitching here," Miller said.

Miller (8-3) gave up two runs, one walk and struck out six to remain undefeated at Enron Field since Sept. 13, 2000.

"My plan is to keep the ball down and go from there. You've got to keep the ball down any place you pitch," Miller said. "Tonight I was able to stay ahead, mix speeds and move the ball in and out. My change-up was good and I threw a lot of sliders to left-handers. Everything was working tonight."

Miller earned the respect of Colorado Manager Buddy Bell by holding Larry Walker and Todd Helton hitless in six at-bats.

"Miller was very good. When he handles guy like Larry Walker and Todd Helton you know he's done pretty well," Bell said.



Foul ball

Kirstie Strutt waits for the ball to go foul in a Colby recreation rookie girls softball game at the rec fields. Games start tonight at 6 p.m.

JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Four striders going to Manhattan

Colby Striders Track Club qualified four for the Missouri Valley Championships in Manhattan June 29-30.

The team finished 27th out of 67 teams in the state American Athletic

Union meet in Hays this weekend.

To move on, competitors must finish fourth or better. Seven individuals and a relay team competed.

Those qualifying were:

Joshua Baden advanced with a third place finish in the 1,500 meter run and a fourth in the 3K.

His times were 5:16.88 and 11:43.56 respectively. He was also fifth in the 800 at 2:36.25.

Lissa Mazanec was second in the 800 at 2:48.15 and third in the discus at 75'6". Her 12'8 1/4" in the long jump fell short, finishing fifth.

Ashlee Hudson was fourth in the 800 at 2:51.43. She also ran the 1,500 in 6:45.79 for seventh and took 11th in the high jump at 3'6".

Amber Wagoner jumped 4' even for fourth in the high jump. She also participated in the 100 and 200 meter dash.

Also participating were: Tracer Hudson who was 5th in the shot-put at 22'11". He also participated in the 100 meter dash and 80 meter hurdles.

Kalen Rasmussen was sixth in the 400 at 1:14.73.

Kelsea Geschwentner was 5th in the 200 at 35.87, 13th in the long jump at 8'2" and also participated in the 100 meter dash.

The boys 4x100 team, Ethan Stickle, Dexter Pfeifer and Brandon and Kalen Rasmussen was sixth at 1:08.42.

Sox overwhelm Royals

CHICAGO (AP) — Leading off the eighth inning Wednesday, Carlos Lee said he was just trying to get something — anything — going for the Chicago White Sox.

He wound up winning the game, tagging reliever Jason Grimsley for a home run that gave the White Sox a 2-1 victory and a three-game sweep over the Kansas City Royals.

Lee, who beat the Cubs on June 8 with a 10th-inning grand slam, hit a 2-1 pitch from Grimsley (0-3) over the wall for his 11th homer.

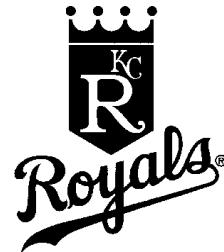
"(Grimsley) is a pretty good sinker thrower and I was just trying to go right field, right-center — somewhere — and it just happened," Lee said. "I hit

it solid and it went up."

"He put a good swing on it," said Kansas City manager Tony Muser. "I think it was a sinker out over the plate."

That made a winner of Jon Garland (3-3) who pitched three hitless innings in relief of starter Rocky Biddle. It was Garland's first relief win of the season. Keith Foulke pitched the ninth for his 16th save in 17 tries.

The White Sox have won 19 of the last 25 games with seven straight and 12 of 13 at home. The three-game sweep was the first at home for Chicago against Kansas City since June 25-27, 1997. The Royals have lost four in a row after winning a season-best five straight.



Speedway announces sponsors

KANSAS CITY, (AP) — The Kansas Speedway on Wednesday announced sponsorship agreements for some races.

Ameristar Casino and O'Reilly Auto Parts reached a multiyear agreement with the speedway to sponsor two of the track's races.

Ameristar agreed to sponsor IRL races at the track for two years, including the inaugural Indy Racing Northern Light Series race July 8.

O'Reilly will sponsor the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series events at the track for three years, including the July 7 truck race.

Youth soccer hosts 3-on-3

Soccer players from Colby, Oakley and Brewster squared off against counterparts from Alliance, Neb. and Phillipsburg June 9 in the "Oasis Cup," a 3-on-3 soccer tournament for ages 9-19.

According to tournament organizer Ann Miner, it was the first tournament of its kind in the region. "The game is much faster than traditional soccer," she said.

In the Under 19 division, Alliance took the win. The Colby team of Badyr Fercha, Andy Moeder, Levi Younkin and Kyle and Morgan Wall took first in the Under 14 division.

Nathan Jurey, Konnel Keller, Shaane Park, Steven Samuelson and Kelly Younkin took first in the Under 12 division.

Patrick Ahrens, Brent Arnberger, Jacob Hefner, Sam Matzek and Garcia Salvador took first in the Under 10 division.

Local Schedule

Thursday, June 21
Colby recreation baseball and softball games.

Junior boys baseball on field 2. Braves vs. Indians at 6:15 p.m. Orioles vs. Yankees at 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 23
Colby Swim Club at Holyoke, Colo. at 8 a.m.

Colby Sweet Thunder girls fast-pitch softball tournament for 12 & Under and 14 & Under starts at 9 a.m. at the Colby recreation fields.

The 800-pound Gorilla is still working for you!

The Country Advocate is the 800-pound Gorilla of Northwest Kansas. The Advocate, with its circulation now 17,000 strong, is delivered to homes from Oberlin to Cheyenne Wells and Burlington out in Colorado, and from St. Francis down to rural Hoxie and Oakley. The Advocate goes nearly everywhere in this area, sells just about everything. Face it, nobody argues with an 800-pound Gorilla.

But this Gorilla is a nice guy. He's on your team. You'll find him right here in your newspaper every week, bringing you want ads, sale ads, merchandise ads of all kinds. The Gorilla can help you. He'll move your old refrigerator, get rid of the wreck out back, or find a new home for your kittens. He's that kind of guy.

The Advocate has the largest circulation of any shopper-type section around, and it's nearly all delivered to homes, by newspaper carrier or U.S. Mail.

Take a look. That's him, peeking out from between the pages your newspaper. The 800-pound Gorilla, ready to go to work for you. Call today for an introduction.

The Country Advocate



COLBY
FREE PRESS

155 W. 5th • Colby, Ks. 67701 • 785-462-3963

Call in your sports news to the Colby Free Press at 462-3963 or e-mail colbysports@nwkansas.com. Jay Kelley is sports coordinator.